

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on January 26, 2010 has been entered. Claims 1, 7 and 16 have been amended. Claims 10, 20-21 and 33 have been cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ting-Mao Chao on June 9, 2010.

The title of this application, "Vacuum Pump" should be changed to "Vacuum pump with a continuous ignition source"

In claim 1, the recitation, "wherein the pressure of pumped fluid at the ignition source is in the range from 50 to 950 mbar" should be changed to "wherein the pressure of pumped fluid at the ignition source is in the range from 50 to 950 mbar; and a means for injecting into the pump a fluid stream comprising an oxidant for assisting in igniting the fuel."

In claim 16, the recitation, "igniting the fuel to regulate the concentration of the fuel in fluid exhaust from the pump" should be changed to "igniting the fuel to regulate

the concentration of the fuel in fluid exhaust from the pump, and injecting a fluid stream comprising an oxidant for assisting in igniting the fuel”

In claim 7, the recitation, “wherein the pressure of pumped fluid at the ignition source is in the range from 50 to 950 mbar” should be changed to “wherein the pressure of pumped fluid at the ignition source is in the range from 50 to 950 mbar; and a means for injecting into the pump a fluid stream comprising an oxidant for assisting in igniting the fuel.”

Claims 11, 22, and 27 should be cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9, 12-19, 23-26, and 28-32 are allowed.

The prior art of record discloses vacuum pumps which operate in series with a continuous ignition source; however, the prior art does not disclose a vacuum pump stator within which is a continuous ignition source assisted with an injected oxidant and which pump operates such that the pressure of the pumped fluid at the ignition source is between 50 to 950 mbar.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHAN ZOLLINGER whose telephone number is 571-270-7815. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on 571-272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3746

/N. Z./
Examiner, Art Unit 3746